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**Chair, Council Committee
on Transportation & Plan-
ning**

**Vice Chair, Council Com-
mittee on Zoning & Hous-
ing**

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tees on Public Health, Safe-
ty & Welfare**

**Member, Council Commit-
tee on Budget**



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SEPTEMBER 2017 UPDATE**

City Council Bills Become Law



Mayor Kirk Caldwell took action on six bills passed by the Honolulu City Council last month. The following bills have become law:

[Bill 22, CD1, FD1](#) - Amends the public spay and neuter clinic for dogs and cats. The City administration, in conjunction with the animal control contractor, is authorized to establish a pilot program to reduce the City's free-roaming cat overpopulation through the humane spaying and neutering of free-roaming cats, and to provide Medicaid card and low-income housing voucher holders with a reduced certificate price.

[Bill 57 \(2016\), CD2, FD1](#) - adopts the revised Ko'olau Poko Sustainable Communities Plan. Bill 57 (2016), CD2, FD1 repeals the existing Sustainable Communities Plan for Koolau Poko, Article 6, Chapter 24, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990, and adopts a new Article 6 incorporating the revised Koolau Poko Sustainable Communities Plan. This revised development plan ordinance adopts a sustainable communities plan that presents a vision for Koolau Poko's future development consisting of policies, guidelines, and conceptual schemes that will serve as a policy guide for more detailed zoning maps and regulations and for public and private sector investment decisions.

[Bill 50, CD1](#) - Relating to city boards and commissions establishes a process for the periodic review of certain City boards and commissions to determine whether the charter provisions or ordinances establishing the board or commission should be retained, amended, or repealed.

[Bill 51, CD1](#) - Relating to parking time limits, amends the Traffic Code of the City and County of Honolulu, as set forth in Chapter 15 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990,

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Sept. 6

Full Council	9 am
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Tuesday, Sept. 26

Public Safety	9 am
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Parks	10 ³⁰ am
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Executive Matters	1pm
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Wednesday, Sept. 27

Budget	9am
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Public Works	1pm
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Thursday, Sept. 28

Zoning and Housing	9 am
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BEDT	1 pm
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Trans & Planning	2 ³⁰ pm
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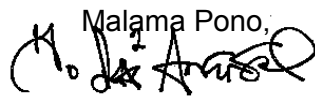
City Council Bills Become Law **(Cont.)**

to enable the City to set time limits as indicated by official signs only.

Bill 54 - Relating to wind machines. Large, utility-scale wind machines have the potential to adversely affect view planes and community character. This ordinance amends the permitting requirements for wind machines. Wind machines in the agricultural and Country zoning districts with a capacity greater than 100 kilowatts would require a Conditional Use Permit-major (CUP-major).

Bill 57 - Relating to Ethics Commission staff, repeals language that is duplicative of Section 11-1 07 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, as amended by Charter Amendment No.2 adopted at the general election held on November 8, 2016, in the City and County of Honolulu.

The bills were passed on third reading during a Honolulu City Council meeting on August 9.

Malama Pono,




Tax Advisory Commission **Calls for Public Input**

The 2017 Oahu Real Property Tax Advisory Commission is calling for the public's input as it conducts a comprehensive review of the City's real property tax system. The Commission must submit written recommendations to the City Council by December 1, 2017.

The Commission believes the public's input is critical to this process and all property owners have a perspective on how we can improve the system. Real property taxes are the primary source of revenue for the City and County of Honolulu. The tax system features various classes of property, as well as numerous exemptions and credits, which must be reviewed periodically to ensure that the system is as equitable and efficient as possible.

In 2011 the City Council created the Oahu Real Property Tax Advisory Commission to advise and assist the Council by conducting a biennial review of the City's real property tax system. The last report from the Commission was in November 2014. In May the Council adopted Resolution 17-112 reestablishing the Commission and requiring that it issue a new report by December 1. The 2017 Commission met for the first time in July. Its next meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2017, in the City Council Committee Room on the second floor of Honolulu Hale.

The public is encouraged to submit oral and written testimony. Written testimony may be sent to Commission aide Todd Swisher via e-mail at todd.swisher@honolulu.gov.

Sound the Alarm, Save a Life

The American Red Cross is looking for volunteers to help with the Sound the Alarm nationwide campaign to help save lives from home fires by installing free smoke alarms in the homes of vulnerable populations like the elderly, disabled, and needy. They also teach residents how to prevent and escape from home fires. Every day, seven Americans perish in home fires and smoke alarms cut the rate of death in half. So far, the nationwide Red Cross program has saved at least 258 lives. If you would like to help with this campaign, volunteers are needed-there are 4 on a team: installer, educator, documenter, and assistant. Volunteers usually meet at 8am and go out from 9am to 12noon, covering 5 houses each. Everyone will wear a Red Cross vest and all materials and supplies will be provided

Any further questions or to register as a Red Cross volunteer please call Volunteer Services at 808-

Rail Funding Bill Becomes Law

The City and County of Honolulu received funding to complete its \$8.2 billion rail project after the Hawaii State Legislature passed a bill during a special legislative session last month that was signed into law by Governor Ige on September 5. The bill will provide about \$2.39 billion to complete construction of the rail project to Ala Moana and provide a secure funding source to ensure continued federal support.

The bill will:

- Extend the general excise tax surcharge on Oahu for three additional years, from December 31, 2027 through December 31, 2030. This will provide \$1.046 billion.
- Raise the hotel room tax charged to visitors (Transient Accommodation Tax) by one percent from 9.25 percent to 10.25 percent for 13 years, from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2030. This also applies to timeshares. This will provide \$1.326 billion.
- The current method of collecting the hotel room tax remains the same. It is collected statewide and goes directly into the general fund, not to the island where it is collected. Each county receives a specified amount of the tax regardless of total amounts collected. Raising the tax does not change that amount.
- Permanently increase the counties' share of the TAT from its current \$93 million base to \$103 million.
- Reduce the State Department of Taxation's administrative fee on the GET surcharge from 10 percent to one percent.
- Require a state run audit of the rail project and annual financial reviews.

The bill also provides that funds collected for rail go into a new Mass Transit Special Fund where the State Comptroller will review and disburse funds to the City for its costs as the rail project moves forward. This will allow the state to keep track of both spending and construction progress.

Currently, the GET surcharge is automatically transferred to the city on a quarterly basis without any oversight. This bill will change that practice to ensure accountability and transparency by having the Comptroller review and approve the expenses before the City and HART are reimbursed. It also establishes better internal control and ensures that waste and fraud does not occur.

This bill addresses the immediate rail construction shortfall by collecting funds upfront through a modest TAT increase instead of adding additional years of GET surcharge on the back end. This will likely reduce the financing costs of the project by hundreds of millions of dollars. By including the TAT, visitors will now bear a significant portion of the financing burden.

The City is working closely with HART on an updated financial plan that takes this new funding mechanism into account, and will continue to work with the Federal Transit Administration in completing the elevated rail line from East Kapolei to Ala Moana. Gov. Ige's signing of the rail funding bill also allows the Honolulu City Council to approve Bill 45, which extends O'ahu's half-percent surcharge to the state general excise tax another three years, and is a key component of the updated financial plan the FTA requires by September 15.

For more information please go to: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/splsession.aspx?year=2017a>

Honoring the Lanikai Science Squad

The Honolulu City Council recently honored the Lanikai Science Squad for their first place award at the 2017 eCybermission National Competition and contributions to local organic culture. The science squad won 1st place by creating their own organic pesticide using local ingredients which is less expensive and safer for farmers and consumers to use.



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

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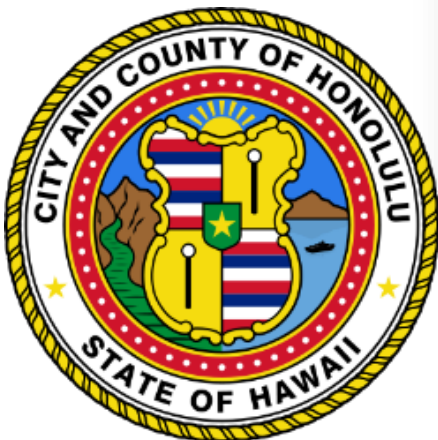
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Rehabilitation of Kapa'a Quarry Place

A city contractor began work on a re-paving project for Kapa'a Quarry Place on Monday, August 21. Barring weather related delays, the work is expected to be completed within 21 calendar days. Allowable work hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

The contract includes the pre-construction inspection of manholes and the documenting of their locations; removal of worn-out pavement; and the resurfacing or reconstruction of asphalt concrete pavement. Additional activities include adjustment of utility manhole frames and covers; installation of pave-

ment markers; installation of pavement striping and markings; and installation of vehicle detector loops.

Drivers should anticipate delays and are reminded to observe and obey all traffic controls, posted signs and special duty police officers. On-street parking will be prohibited during working hours, so motorists should observe the dates and times on posted roadway signs. Illegally parked vehicles may be towed, if necessary, at the owner's expense. Motorists are advised to proceed with caution. Local residential traffic, deliveries, and trash collection will be allowed during construction hours.



TheBus Transfers Eliminated

Attention all bus riders. On Sunday, October 1, 2017 TheBus will eliminate transfers and introduce 1 (one) day passes (\$5.00-Adults, \$2.50-Youth, \$2.00-Seniors). Effective Monday, January 1, 2018 fare increases will go into effect.

The new fares for adults will be \$2.75 cash single ride, \$5.50 for a 1 (one) day pass, \$70.00 for a 1 (one) month pass, and \$770.00 for an annual pass. The new fares for youth will be \$35.00 for a 1 (one) month pass and \$385.00 for an annual pass. The new fares for seniors will be \$6.00 for a 1 (one) month pass and \$35.00 for an annual pass.

If you have any questions, please contact customer service office at 848-5555, press number 3 or go to: <http://www.thebus.org/>

